

Message Text

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44

ACTION OIC-02

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----- 036400

O 191523Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 50

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 0266

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON AFIN AFSP

SUBJ: SEVENTH MEETING CIECC

REF: STATE 007904, 009303

1. THE SUBJECT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE HOTEL SHERATON SAN SALVADOR. THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, WHICH IS ACTING AS THE HOST, HAS BLOCKED THE ENTIRE SECOND FLOOR OF THE HOTEL FOR CONFERENCE SPACE. THE MINISTRY HAS RESERVED ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE SHERATON ALSO ONLY FOR THE HEAD OF EACH DELEGATION, REPEAT HEAD ONLY. EVERYONE ELSE WILL BE ON THEIR OWN, SO TO SPEAK, IN OBTAINING ACCOMMODATIONS AT OTHER LOCAL HOTELS WITH THE MINISTRY LIMITING ITS ASSISTANCE TO ADVISING DELEGATIONS WHERE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THEIR OTHER MEMBERS MIGHT BE OBTAINED. THE MINISTRY ANTICIPATES THAT UPWARDS OF 300 OR MORE PERSONS WILL BE ATTENDING THE SUBJECT MEETING IN ONE CAPACITY OR ANOTHER.

2. THE EMBASSY MET WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ON 11/15 IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN ITS ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING SPACE AT THE HOTEL SHERATON FOR A CONTROL ROOM FOR THE USED, AFTER FAILURE TO OBTAIN SPACE FOR THE PURPOSE DIRECTLY FROM THE MANAGEMENT. THE EMBASSY WAS SUCCESSFUL ONLY IN OBTAINING A SUITE AT THE HOTEL SHERATON FOR AMBASSADOR MILLARD, IN ADDITION TO RESERVED SUITE FOR MRS LYNCH. THIS IS ABSOLUTELY THE MAXIMUM SPACE IN THE HOTEL SHERATON THAT THE EMBASSY CAN EXPECT FOR THE SHERATON. THE MANAGER WITH WHOM THE EMBASSY ENJOYS EXCELLENT RAPPORT EVEN

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OFFERED HALF HIS OWN SMALL OFFICE TO THE EMBASSY FOR A CONTROL

ROOM AREA FOR THE USDEL. THIS WOULD NOT BE SATISFACTORY, BUT IS INDICATIVE OF THE SITUATION THE HOTEL MANAGEMENT CURRENTLY FACES IN ACCOMMODATING THE SUBJECT MEETING TOGETHER WITH REGULAR COMMERCIAL CLIENTEL SWOLLEN BY HEAVY CONFIRMED TOUR GROUP BOOKINGS THROUGHOUT JANUARY. THE MANAGER WENT SO FAR AS TO DEMONSTRATE TO US THAT THE HOTEL ALREADY IS OVERBOOKED FROM 01/25 THRU 01/31 ON THE AVERAGE OF 30 OR MORE PERONS PER DAY FOR WHOM ACCOMMODATIONS MUST BE FOUND IN OTHER HOTELS.

3. AS A CONSEQUENCE O THE ABOVE THE EMBASSY MOVED WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY TO BOOK THE REMAINDER OF THE USDEL (ALL 10, NOT INCLUDING AMBASSADOR CAMPBELL) AND THE SUPPORT STAFF (2) INTO THE HOTEL CAMINO REAL WHICH IS LOCATED FIFTEEN MINUTES BY CAR FROM THE SHERATON AND FIVE MINUTES FROM THE EMBASSY. THE CAMINO REAL IS THE ONLY OTHER HOTEL IN TOWN COMPARABLE IN ACCOMMODATIONS AND AMENITIES TO THE SHERATON. THE USE OF OTHER SMALLER AND LESS EXPENSIVE HOTELS AND MOTELS NEARER TO THE SHERATON STILL WOULD HAVE INVOLVED TRAVEL BY CAR TO AND FROM THE MEETING SITE. IT WAS CONCLUDED THEREFORE THAT THE DELEGATES WOULD PREFER THE MOST SUITABLE ACCOMMODATIONS AVAILA³. THE COST OF A SINGLE ROOM AT THE CAMINO REAL AT THE DIPLOMATIC DISCOUNT RATE IS NOW DOLLARS 21 PER DAY UP FROM DOLLARS 18 EFFECTIVE 01/01/76. THE CURRENT RATE OF PER DIEM FOR SAN SALVADOR IS DOLLARS 30 PER DAY AND DOES NOT REFLECT RECENT INCREASES IN BOTH HOTEL AND RESTAURANT PRICES STEMMING ROM A GENERAL INCREASE IN WAGE RATES IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOES AND INFLATION. IN VIEW THEREOF, THE DEPARMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER A SPECIAL PER DIEM RATE FOR PURPOSES OF THE SUBJECT CONFERENCE.

4. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES OUTLINED ABOVE AND UNLESS BY SOME UNEXPECTED WINDFALL SPACE CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE HOTEL SEHRATON OR IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY (SUCH AS ACROSS THE STREET INA SMALL SHOPPING CENTER) THE EMBASSY PLANS TO ESTABLISH THE CONTROL CENTER FOR THE USDEL IN THE CHANCERY WHERE ALL FACILITIES NEEDED FOR THE PURPOSE ARE READILY AVAILABLE, INCLUDING ADEQUATE OFFICE SPACE, OFFICE EQUIPMENT, COMMUNICATIONS AND SECURITY. THE DEPARTMENT'S (OCN'S) VIEWS ON LOCATION OF THE CONTROL CENTER IN THE CHANCERY AS OPPOSED TO THE CAMINO REAL, WHERE MOST OF THE DELEGATES WILL BE STAYING, ASSUMING SPACE CANNOT BE OBTAINED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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OR NEAR THE SHERATON, IS REQUESTED.

5. THE EMBASSY REGRETS THAT BETTER ARRANGEMENTS FOR KEEPING THE USDEL TOGETHER AT THE CONFERENCE SITE COULD NOT BE MADE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
CAMPBELL

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